

## CLAIMS:

1. A photosensitive composition comprising:

(A) at least one sensitizer selected from the group consisting of bichromates and chromates;

5 (B) a water-soluble high-molecular substance;

(C) at least one sensitivity improver selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols and ethers; and

(D) water.

10 2. A photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein said at least one sensitivity improver (C) is contained in a proportion of from 5 to 40 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said water-soluble high-molecular substance.

15 3. A photosensitive composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said at least one sensitivity improver (C) is contained in a proportion such that, when a photosensitive film is formed using said photosensitive composition, said at least one sensitivity improver (C) remains in a range of from 5 to 20 wt.% in said film.

20 4. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-3, which forms a photosensitive film an exposure of which, said exposure being required to give a step sensitivity of Step 5 when exposed at a thickness of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to ultraviolet rays through a "Sensitivity-Measuring Kodak Photographic Step Tablet No. 2" (density: 0.05 to 3.05, number of steps: 21), is  
25 from 500 to 5,000  $\text{mJ}/\text{cm}^2$ .

5. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said water-soluble high molecular substance (B) is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of casein, polyvinyl alcohol, gelatin and fish glue.

5 6. A photosensitive composition according to claim 5, wherein said water-soluble high molecular substance (B) is casein, and said casein is selected from the group consisting of acid casein, ammonium caseinate and sodium caseinate.

10 7. A photosensitive composition according to claim 5, wherein said water-soluble high molecular substance (B) is polyvinyl alcohol, and said polyvinyl alcohol is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, cationic polyvinyl alcohol and anionic polyvinyl alcohol each of which has an average polymerization degree of from 300 to 3,000 and a saponification degree of from 70.0 to 99.0 mol%.

15 8. A photosensitive composition according to claim 5, wherein said water-soluble high molecular substance (B) is gelatin, and said gelatin is selected from the group consisting of acid-treated gelatin and alkali-treated gelatin.

20 9. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein each of said polyhydric alcohols and ethers has a molecular weight or weight average molecular weight not higher than 400.

25 10. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-3 and 9, wherein each of said polyhydric alcohols and

ethers has a boiling point higher than 100°C.

11. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-3, 9 and 10, wherein said at least one sensitivity improver comprises at least one polyhydric alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, trimethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, and glycerin.

12. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-3, 9 and 10, wherein said at least one sensitivity improver comprises at least one ether selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, triethylene glycol monoisobutyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether, and propylene glycol monoethyl ether.

13. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-12, further comprising a preservative.

14. A photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1-13, further comprising a nonionic surfactant.